

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



CHARLES P. “PHIL” ENGLISH Class of 2000

*“In Recognition of a Lifetime of Outstanding Achievement in the game of Baseball.
The State of Alabama will forever be in your debt.”*

A native of Birmingham, Coach Phil English graduated from Ensley High School in 1956. He received his bachelor's degree from Birmingham Southern College in 1960 and his master's degree in math and science from the University of Alabama in 1966. He returned to his alma mater, Ensley, to begin his coaching career in 1962. His first team compiled a record of 32-0. Eight of his nine starters on that team either turned pro or received a college scholarship. After his three-year coaching stint at Ensley, he took an assistant coaches position at Florida State University for a year.

He returned to Birmingham in 1966 to coach at Banks High School for a year. Then Coach English moved over to Huffman High School, where he enjoyed his greatest success over a nineteen-year period. His Huffman team won state championships in 1977 and 1982. His last team at Huffman went 27-7 and finished second in the state. He spent his last six years at Hewitt-Trussville High School where he recorded his 500th win in 1989.

In 28 years of coaching, Coach English saw 12 of his players sign professional contracts and 64 of them receive college scholarships to four-year colleges and universities. Three of his Huffman players eventually made it to the major leagues - Britt Burns, Jay Tibbs and Bill Latham. Between 1971 and 1993 only three of his teams failed to qualify for the state playoffs. His 28-year career record was 566-217, a winning percentage of .720.

Coach English has two high school baseball fields named after him - Huffman, where he built the field out of a swamp, and Hewitt-Trussville, where he built the field out of a corn field.

Inducted January 14, 2000